

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

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FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2698

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 2065

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GW, CZ

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SUBJECT: BERLIN REACTION TO FRG DECISION ON DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1. SUMMARY: WHILE SENAT HAS ATTEMPTED TO PUT ON BRAVE
FACE AT LEAST IN PUBLIC, BERLIN OFFICIALDOM, POLITICAL
LEADERS, AND PRESS HAVE HARSHLY CRITICIZED DECISION OF
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PROCEED WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA WITHOUT SETTLING
BEFOREHAND REPRESENTATION OF WEST BERLIN JURIDICAL PERSONS
AND COURTS. END SUMMARY.

2. SENAT SPOKESMAN STURVE PUBLICLY EXPRESSED SENAT'S
APPRECIATION FOR EFFORTS OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO REACH
FAVORABLE SOLUTION OF CONSULAR-REPRESENTATION ISSUE,
BUT SOURCES CITED AS "SENAT CIRCLES" FREELY CONVEYED TO
PRESS THEIR OPINION THAT BINDING ARRANGEMENT SHOULD
HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED PRIOR TO SIGNING OF TREATY NORMALIZING
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RELATIONS WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA. PRIVATELY, LEADING SENAT

OFFICIALS TOLD MISSION OFFICERS THEY WERE DISAPPOINTED AT BONN'S DECISION AND CONCERNED ABOUT ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE. EVEN STRUVE, ERSTWHILE CHAMPION OF SWIFT "NORMALIZATION" OF RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPE, WAS HARSHLY CRITICAL.

3. CDU FRAKTION CHAIRMAN LUMMER TOOK FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO TASK FOR ANNOUNCING "SUCCESS" OF NEGOTIATIONS, WHEN NO SUBSTANTIVE SOLUTION OF CONSULAR REPRESENTATION ISSUE HAD BEEN REACHED AND WHEN INDEED NO PROGRESS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED SINCE IMPASSE OF LAST AUGUST. LUMMER DECLARED THAT BERLIN WAS BEING SACRIFICED FOR SAKE OF FURTHER MOVEMENT IN OSTPOLITIK.

4. IN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "UNSATISFACTORY FOR BERLIN," TAGESSPIEGEL'S CHIEF EDITOR BOELKE EXPRESSED DOUBT AS TO WHETHER FRG WOULD HENCEFORTH BE IN POSITION TO IMPLEMENT QA OBLIGATION FOR CONSULAR REPRESENTATION OF WEST BERLIN CITIZENS AND INSTITUTIONS, AND ASCRIBED BLAME FOR THIS TO BRANDT AND WEHNER, WHO HAD UNDERCUT SCHEEL'S EFFORTS TO REACH ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION. TACTICALLY, BOELKE SAID, IT WAS MISTAKE TO LINK SIGNING OF NORMALIZATION TREATY WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS, SINCE THIS REMOVED LAST VESTIGE OF LEVERAGE FRG MIGHT HAVE IN CONSULAR REPRESENTATION ISSUE. IN CONCLUSION, BOELKE VOICED SUSPICION THAT DYNAMIC PURSUIT OF OSTPOLITIK HAD OVERCOME BONN'S INTEREST IN FULL APPLICATION OF QA, AND EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH "NEW YORK TIMES" EDITORIAL (GIVEN WIDE PLAY LOCALLY) THAT SUCH A COURSE WOULD DAMAGE OSTPOLITIK ITSELF AND WOULD CREATE MAJOR DIFFICULTIES FOR FUTURE FUNCTIONING OF QA.

5. BERLINER MORGENPOST (SPRINGER PRESS) CHARACTERIZED BONN DECISION AS COMPLETE CAPITULATION TO BERLIN POLICY OF COMMUNIST STATES, AND TERMED IT INDICATION THAT FOR PRESENT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, BERLIN WAS NO LONGER OF ANY MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE. IN FULL AWARENESS OF HAZARDS, BONN HAD ABANDONED "SAFE TERRITORY" OF QA AND HAD THEREBY ENCOURAGED GDR AND EAST BLOC STATES TO WHITTLE AWAY FURTHER AT BERLIN'S POSITION AND VIABILITY. B.Z. (SPRINGER) COMMENTED
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ALONG SIMILAR LINES.

6. ACCORDING TO SENAT SOURCES, CHANCELLOR BRANDT PLANS TO TAKE FIRM ANTI-GDR LINES--PRESUMABLY FOCUSING ON CURRENCY-EXCHANGE REQUIREMENTS--DURING VISIT TO BERLIN OVER COMING WEEKEND, BUT IT IS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER THIS GESTURE WILL ALLAY CRITICISM OVER FRG-CZECH ARRANGEMENTS.KLEIN

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